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Letter dated 15 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Referring to the decision of the Parliament of Crimea to hold a referendum on the status of Crimea, I have the honour to kindly bring to your attention the following:

On 14 March 2014, upon the request of the Acting President of Ukraine and the Ombudsperson of Ukraine, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine took a decision on the issue of compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine of the Decree of the Crimean Parliament "On Holding an All-Crimean Referendum" dated 6 March 2014 (hereafter the Decree).

As you may be aware, in the Decree, the Parliament of Crimea decided to accede to the Russian Federation and scheduled for 16 March 2014 a local Crimean referendum, including the city of Sevastopol, with the following questions:

- Do you support Crimea's reunification with the Russian Federation?
- Do you support the restoration of Crimea's Constitution of 1992 and Crimea's status as a part of Ukraine?

The above Decree also contained a decision to address the President of the Russian Federation and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as to initiating the procedure of the accession of Crimea to the Russian Federation.

On 7 March 2014, the Acting President of Ukraine suspended the Decree and simultaneously referred it to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine with the request to verify the compliance of the Decree with the Constitution of Ukraine.

Considering the request, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine underscored that in accordance with article 73 of the Constitution of Ukraine, any question of changing the territory of Ukraine shall be subject, exclusively, to an All-Ukrainian referendum. The only State body entitled to announce an All-Ukrainian referendum is the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine. According to article 134 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is an integral part of the territory of Ukraine.

The Constitutional Court has found that by having adopted the Decree, the Crimean Parliament has violated the principle of territorial integrity of Ukraine enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine, and thus breached the Constitution of Ukraine.

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The Constitutional Court has ruled that the Decree shall be repealed on the date of the Court's decision. It has also been ruled by the Court that the Parliament of Crimea must stop any actions aimed at holding the referendum and the Government of Crimea must stop financing the referendum.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative